

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 13, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 are pending in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. New independent claim 5 has been added. Originally filed claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,120,210 to Sloyan (Sloyan '210). Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,974,158 to Okenfuss (Okenfuss '158). Claims 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okenfuss '158 in view of U.S. Patent 2,210,051 to Woodbury (Woodbury '051). It is respectfully requested that the above-identified rejections be withdrawn in view of the preceding amendment and the following discussion.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 3-4 have been amended to overcome the rejection, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Sloyan '210. Claim 1 of the invention has been amended to recite "first and second longitudinal members each provided with a U-shaped channel." In contrast, Sloyan '210 neither suggests nor teaches U-shaped longitudinal members provided with U-shaped channels, as recited in Claim 1. Instead of the U-shaped channels, as now claimed, Sloyan '210 teaches cleats (23) displaceable relative to zigzag slots in a plate (15) to establish a desired position in which studs (21) traverse the cleats and the slots to attach the motor to the plate.

Furthermore, Claim 1, as amended, recites "at least one fastening element mounted to a respective U-shaped channel ... and configured to move therein along a plurality of paths extending transversely to one another." Sloyan '210 does not teach or suggest displacing fastening elements within U-shaped channels, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Consequently, Sloyan '210 does not disclose each and every element of the structure as claimed and is not anticipatory. The 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also has rejected Claim 1 as being anticipated by Okenfuss '158. Okenfuss '158 discloses fastening elements 11 displaceable only in one direction.

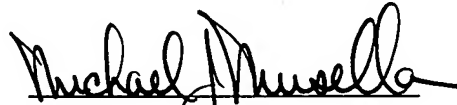
Okenfuss '158 does not teach or suggest the longitudinal members formed with U-shaped channels, as recited in the amended claim 1. Nor does Okenfuss '158 teach or suggest displacing the fastening element in the U-shaped channels along transversely extending paths, as presently recited in Claim 1. In contrast, Okenfuss '158 teaches displacing the fastening elements along a unidirectional path. Therefore, Okenfuss '158 does not show all of the elements, as recited by Claim 1. The 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okenfuss '158 in view of Woodbury '051. Claim 4 is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons given above regarding Claim 1.

Claim 5 has been added to recite a mounting system including a machine and a frame supporting the machine. Note that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a structure having a cross member "configured to selectively adjust a distance between the longitudinal members and to connect the longitudinal members upon establishing a spaced relationship therebetween", as recited in Claim 5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the application, namely claims 1 and 3-5 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, she is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Musella", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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